

Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Academic Development and Community Involvement on Air Quality and Climate Change Issues Between the California Air Resources Board and the Riverside Unified School District

Whereas, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the agency charged with providing healthful air to all Californians, and is leading the world in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

Whereas, the Board's aggressive mobile source emission reduction program is a key reason for the significant improvement in air quality that the State has experienced.

Whereas, the success of CARB's programs depends on well-trained, skilled and experienced staff that represent the diversity of the communities CARB serves.

Whereas, CARB is constructing its Southern California Headquarters in Riverside to be a world-standard center of research, emissions compliance and regulatory development.

Whereas, Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) boasts 29 California Distinguished schools, 4 National Blue Ribbon schools and is a statewide leader as an innovator in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education.

Whereas, RUSD was recently awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant for \$1,195,000 to implement air quality lessons and research in the high school science classrooms that CARB provided support for.

Whereas, RUSD has convened a consortium of Claremont McKenna Graduate University, Harvey Mudd and UC Riverside faculty and students who are jointly developing an environmental audit for RUSD that includes how the district can serve as a model for other public schools by reducing energy consumption and emissions and incorporating more sustainability practices.

Whereas, RUSD aims to create a diverse workforce and pipeline of women and minorities in environmental related sciences that include pathways to careers at agencies such as CARB.

Whereas, RUSD is already partnering with local community colleges and universities to offer training programs for local residents to become scientists and technicians in relevant fields of study, with an emphasis on educating disadvantaged and underrepresented populations, including women and minorities.

Whereas, the University of California, Riverside received a grant from CARB focused on J.W. North High School and the surrounding disadvantaged community to develop community involvement strategies and data collection to gather neighborhood level data on diesel particulate matter levels related to goods movement operations.

Whereas, the new CARB headquarters provides an opportunity for CARB and RUSD to create a world-renowned nexus for educational opportunities relating to climate change and air quality education and innovation.

Whereas, the new headquarters also provides RUSD and CARB with an opportunity to partner to advance their mutual goal of building a strong and diverse workforce with the skills to tackle the air quality and climate change challenges of the Inland Empire and the world.

Whereas, together with other local educational institutions, CARB and RUSD, intend to cooperate on development of an educational pathway from primary grades through the university level for the Southern California Inland region to support the CARB facility and related industry jobs.

Therefore, CARB and RUSD enter this MOU to confirm their commitment to work in partnership to achieve the purposes of this MOU as stated herein.

Part 1: Areas of Cooperation

The parties may cooperate in the following areas and other related areas as appropriate and for the mutual benefit of both parties:

- Development and delivery of STEM and air-quality and climate-change focused training programs and curricula.
- Promotion of air quality and science career pathways for a diverse student population from K-12 to community colleges to universities.
- Development of a greenhouse gas footprint audit of RUSD as a model to promote sustainability and reduction in energy use for other public schools.
- Opportunities to obtain grants, industry sponsorship, or other funding to obtain equipment and other resources to promote STEM, air quality education, and environmental careers.
- Expand critical thinking and understanding for students on the deliberative process that develops public policy and regulations related to air quality and climate change.
- Coordination on outreach and education opportunities

Part 2: Forms of Cooperation

The forms of cooperation may include the following and any other forms agreed to by the parties:

- CARB participating on committees for the development of training programs, curricula and related educational opportunities.
- CARB providing technical expertise and information to assist in supporting RUSD's training program and curricula.
- CARB providing guest speakers/participants for assemblies, classrooms, science fairs and other events.
- CARB providing tours of the CARB Southern California Headquarters to students.
- RUSD promoting air quality and climate change topic inclusion in classroom curricula, science fairs and other venues.
- CARB and RUSD coordinating on events that highlight STEM and environmental career opportunities such as "Take Your Child to Work Day" and an annual open house at CARB's Southern California Headquarters.
- CARB and RUSD collaborating on opportunities to apply for grants, industry sponsorship, and other funding opportunities related to STEM or air quality curriculum, and environmental careers.

Part 3: Implementation

The parties will consult with each other on a regular basis regarding matters of common interest that represent opportunities for mutual benefit consistent with this MOU.

The parties designate the following individuals as primary contacts for the implementation of this MOU:

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CARB Southern California Headquarters
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Chief Academic Officer
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Part 4: General Provisions

This MOU will remain in effect from the date of its signature by the parties for two years and may be amended upon agreement of the parties in writing.

This MOU is non-binding and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity.

Nothing in this MOU binds the parties to perform beyond their respective authorities.

Nothing in this MOU is intended to or will be construed to limit or affect in any way the authority or legal responsibilities of the parties.

The mission requirements, funding, personnel, and other priorities of the parties may affect their ability to fully implement all the provisions identified in this MOU.

Nothing in this MOU may be construed to obligate the parties to spend funds on any particular area or form of cooperation.

Specific activities that involve the transfer of money, services, or property between or among the parties will require execution of separate agreements or contracts.

Nothing in this MOU is intended to or will be construed to restrict the parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

All press releases and public statements issued by the parties concerning or characterizing this MOU will be jointly reviewed and agreed to by the parties prior to issuance.

Mary D. Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board



David Hansen, District Superintendent
Riverside Unified School District

